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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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INFO RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 3364
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 0266
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 4325
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RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 8080
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 9258
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 7107
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2690
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 4105
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY 3321
RUEHAST/USOFFICE ALMATY PRIORITY
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 8735
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA PRIORITY 0966
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 4653
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI PRIORITY 3738
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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 3525
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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SIPDIS

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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAID](#) [PGOV](#) [PK](#)
SUBJECT: START UP OF NEW USAID OFFICE OF TRANSITION INITIATIVES
PROGRAM IN PAKISTANQS FATA

Summary

11. SUMMARY: The relationship between the Government of Pakistan (GOP) and traditional tribal structures in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) is under increased pressure because of the spread of fundamentalist extremism, foreign terrorist involvement, Pakistan's military activities in FATA, and an active military campaign in Afghanistan. The weak writ of the government leaves FATA's communities more vulnerable to extremist groups. With support from the GOP, and the approval of the U.S. Embassy and USAID/Pakistan, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) will begin a program to build confidence between FATA's communities and the GOP. The program will support a consultative approach between the GOP and FATA communities, deliver quick impact community-focused projects, and strengthen the GOP's credibility in FATA. The program will also work to assist the GOP to better manage public information distributed to FATA's communities regarding development assistance. The program is part of a larger USG and USAID strategy for FATA, and will be closely coordinated with ongoing and forthcoming USAID/Pakistan programs.

Background

12. BACKGROUND: The GOP is focusing efforts to bring security and development to FATA, demonstrating a new commitment towards the region by strengthening the capacity of the FATA Secretariat (FS) to deliver assistance and to attract investment to the region through the newly created FATA Development Authority (FDA). To

begin bringing sustained development to the region the FS has produced the FATA Sustainable Development Plan (SDP). The GOP has pledged \$1 billion to the SDP and is actively soliciting additional funds from donor governments, including the United States. USAID/OTIQs program, the FATA Transition Initiative (FTI), will be an initial step toward supporting the GOPs efforts to better integrate FATA into the political and economic mainstream of Pakistan.

Purpose

13. PURPOSE: The FTI is designed to build confidence and trust between the GOP and tribal communities through the identification and implementation of small community improvement projects and other programs in FATA based on consultations with the GOP, U.S. Embassy, USAID, and other USG stakeholders as appropriate. The centerpiece of the FTI will be establishing and operating a flexible quick-response mechanism capable of mobilizing relevant GOP representatives and communities in decision-making consultative processes.

14. The FTI will support the overall U.S. Department of State/USAID foreign assistance strategic framework goals for FATA. The FTI program objectives are 1) to enhance and extend the writ of the GOP by creating conditions that build confidence and trust between FATA's tribal communities and the GOP through the improvement of the economic and social environment in the

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region; and 2) to increase public access to information about GOP social, economic and political activities and policies in FATA. The FTI is one of the preliminary steps in this process. The FTI will take place over a relatively short time frame, and its activities will have relatively short term horizons usually measured in months rather than years. Since the needs in FATA will undoubtedly continue beyond the term of the FTI, it will contribute to longer term transition objectives of the GOP as supported by USAID/Pakistan and other donors.

15. The FTI will focus on grants under contract, developed through consultative processes, at the community level. The sectoral focus of individual grants will depend on the outcome of consultative processes and will likely include, but not be limited to, replacing and repairing small scale infrastructure. Small livelihood and business activities, and employment generation projects may be considered if it is clear they have the full support of, and will benefit the entire community. The program may also undertake media and communication outreach activities to broadcast informational messaging on GOP development interventions.

Status

16. STATUS: It is anticipated that OTIQs transition programming will be needed for three years. The FTI will initially work in the four Agencies of Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzai, and Kurram, where the operating environment is sufficiently stable to allow community engagement. The program began in mid November 2007 and started implementing activities in January 2008.

17. Point of contact for the OTI program is Justin Sherman USAID/DCHA/OTI ANE Team Leader who can be reached by email at jsherman@usaid.gov. Telephone number is 202-712-1924. USAID/OTI would like to thank the USAID/Pakistan Mission in advance for their assistance in providing support to the start-up of the FTI.

PATTERSON